



January 10, 2022

## The Faith of Desperation

*(1) God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. (2) Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (Psalm 46:1-2)*

I am confident that when God called Job to Satan's attention in the first place, God knew what was in Job's heart. But Job did not know what was in his own heart. That kind of knowledge comes only through experience. God knew Job had faith, and it was now maturing from the faith of propriety to the faith of desperation. Like the faith of propriety, the faith of desperation is a wonderful thing. As we see people lying in bed sick, or losing their possessions, or watching what they cherished in their hearts go down the drain. With grim faces, they say with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). Not everyone is able to do that. There are a lot of people who say, "Well, if God's not going to give me the goodies, I'm not going to trust him!"

In our day, it seems commonplace for a church to have a big blowup and for many of its members to never get over it. As the years pass, they are still sulking, still blaming God, saying, "Well, if you are not going to make the church work right, then I'll just stay home and watch football. I'm not going to have anything to do with church." Not everyone handles setbacks like Job did. He held on, clamped down his teeth, and said, "Whatever comes, I will trust him."

That word trust is very important. I am glad Job did not say, "I'll faith him." The word faith is a real problem in our time. It has become "respectable." How many churches do you know that have the word faith in their name? How many with the word trust? Trust is sloppy. It's out there on the street, in the field of battle. Trust is where Satan and God are struggling for the soul of man! But faith . . . faith is quite nice, isn't it? Very prim and decent—proper even.

There is a family of words in the New Testament that are variously translated as belief, faith, and hope, and what they all have in common is the notion of reliance, confidence, and trust. It is trust that puts you in contact with God so you can draw upon his unlimited and inexhaustible resources. Unfortunately, many folks have their faith lined up in such a way that they do not need to rely on God. They do not need to trust God. They have a proper faith in terms of what they need to believe to go to heaven when they die, but they hope that God is never going to put them in a position of needing to actually trust him before they go there.

**Reflect:** *The faith of desperation—trusting faith—digs in, holds on, clings tight, and says, "I don't care what's going to happen, I am holding on to God! What's needed to help us make this move from the faith of propriety to the faith of desperation is experiencing the reality of God's kindness, goodness, and provision toward us. The challenge that faces us is in thinking we only need to include him in the big deals, but the little deals we'll handle on our own. But the truth is, the majority of life is made up of little deals and if we don't learn how to include him in those, we will have very little experience of including him when things are really dire, when as the psalmist says, the earth is removed and the mountains are thrown into the sea.*

*(Q) What are the little deals that you will face today? How is God inviting you into a relationship in which you are learning how to work with Him and include him in these ordinary moments? Also, make sure you make time to thank him for all the ways he will be your refuge, strength and help in these little deals.*